The right care, for every person, every time

The State of Vermont has been a leader in health care reform and is frequently cited as one of the healthiest states in the nation. Here, like everywhere, families want the best health care for their children, providers want to deliver high-quality, evidence-based care, insurers want to pay for services that work and are cost-effective, and state government wants better health for its citizens. Unfortunately, we know that evidence-based practices are not consistently finding their way into doctors' offices and even insured children receive far fewer services than recommended.¹ Since 1999, the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP) has been empowering professionals to improve health care by providing systemic expertise, practical support, and quantitative evaluation.

MISSION AND GOALS

VCHIP's mission is to optimize the health of Vermont's children and families by initiating and supporting measurement-based efforts to enhance private and public child health practice. Our goals are to:

- 1. **Promote** the will for change with quality improvement tools, evidence-based guidelines, and expert coaching to aid practitioners in their efforts to achieve optimal health care for children, youth, and families.
- 2. **Support** collaboration among public and private health organizations to facilitate meaningful and sustainable improvements in health delivery systems.
- Share results of successful measurement-based initiatives through trainings and publications that disseminate best practices, highlight effective models of care, and inform policy.
- Translate new research and methods into practice by combining our expertise in the fields of improvement science, public health, academic and clinical medicine, and health policy.

ENGAGEMENT IN VCHIP PROJECTS

Pediatric Practices	89%
Family Medicine Practices	77%
Federally Qualified Health Centers	100%
Obstetric/Certified Nurse Midwife Practices	17%
Hospitals Providing Obstetrical Care	100%
Public Schools	21%

KEY AWARDS

March of Dimes Champion for Babies Award

Green Mountain Pediatrician Award –

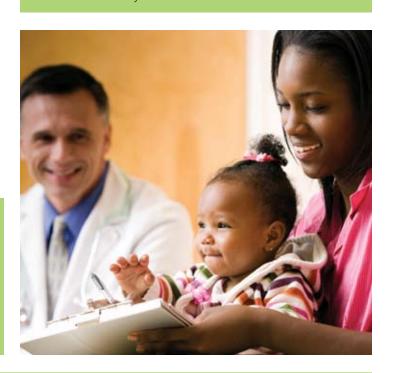
American Academy of Pediatrics – Vermont Chapter

Healthy Bodies Award – Puppets in Education

Vermont Medical Society Awards

Promising Practice for Promoting Adolescent Strengths –

American Academy of Pediatrics



"We could not have begun to make the improvements in care delivery we have been able to achieve without the help of VCHIP."

PARTNERS

The success of VCHIP is largely dependent upon the strength of our interdisciplinary collaboration with public and private entities that shape children's health care. With more than 45 active or completed projects and numerous awards, VCHIP has 35 staff and 40 full and part-time faculty to support quality improvement, public health, evaluation, and research projects in Vermont and across the country.

VCHIP PARTNERS INCLUDE:

Agency of Human Services in Vermont through its Departments of Health, Mental Health, Children and Families, and Vermont Health Access (Medicaid)

American Academy of Pediatrics - Vermont Chapter

Area Health Education Centers

Banking, Insurance, Securities and Health Care Administration Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Vermont & The Vermont Health Plan

CIGNA Healthcare

Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center

Institute for Healthcare Improvement

March of Dimes

MVP Health Plan

National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality

National Improvement Partnerships Network

Vermont Academy of Family Physicians

Vermont Children's Hospital at Fletcher Allen Health Care

Vermont Department of Education

Vermont Family Network

Vermont Medical Society

Vermont Oxford Network

Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care

RESULTS AND IMPACT

Working with our partners, VCHIP has been able to enhance the way that health care professionals deliver services, increase the use of evidence-based practices, and improve the health outcomes of children and families. Outcomes of recent or ongoing projects include:

Coordinated Care: A project designed to improve care of opiate-exposed newborns provided training opportunities for community hospitals in Vermont. Before the training, no community hospitals delivered intentional care to this population but within 2 years, 36% of infants born to opiate-dependant mothers in Vermont were able to be cared for in their local communities.

Enhanced Reimbursement: An ongoing project to help practices achieve Patient Centered Medical Home recognition through the National Committee for Quality Assurance has resulted in an average enhanced practice payment of \$1.87 per patient/per month. This enhanced reimbursement level is used to support care coordination and enhanced patient services.

Preventive Services: A pilot project increased the rate of flu vaccination from 53% to 73% at pediatric diabetes, nephrology, and cystic fibrosis subspecialty clinics. This project seeks to reduce the significant financial burdens associated with the treatment of flu for these vulnerable populations, including emergency room visits and hospitalizations.

Increased Screening: A statewide project designed to improve office systems and adolescent preventive services promoted evidenced-based screening for risk-related behaviors and developmental tasks and strengths at well child visits. Over the course of the project, documented screening for five or more risk-related behaviors increased by 46%, and screening for three or more developmental tasks and strengths increased by 34%.

Avoiding Duplication: A study looking at clients served by three providers of protective and mental health services in two Vermont counties revealed a 48% client overlap between two of the agencies and a 27% client overlap between all three agencies. Work on common consents and standardized testing protocols aims to reduce the time burden on families and improve the delivery of the critical services these agencies provide.

^{1.} A RAND Corporation study found that children received only 68% of recommended care for acute problems, 53% of recommended care for chronic conditions, and 41% of recommended preventive care.

